

**Rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

The Examiner rejected claims 26-36 and 38-52 as being anticipated by WO 93/10167 (hereinafter "WO '167). Applicants submit that the pending claims are novel.

WO '167 discloses an article having an epoxy base coat and a urethane topcoat that is useful in pavement marking applications. The urethane compositions contain a pigment such as titanium dioxide to provide coloring for pavement marking applications. Without such a pigment, the urethane compositions would not function as pavement markings.

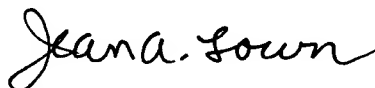
This reference does not teach a clear polyurethane as recited in the independent claims of the present invention. The polyurethane of the present invention functions as a protective layer and a lens to view the substrates or indicia that are covered by the polyurethane coating. The substrate in WO '167 is not visible through the polyurethane coating.

WO '167 does not disclose that the clear polyurethane layer has a curved outer surface as recited in new claims 54-57. Rather, the polyurethane coating disclosed in WO '167 are most likely flat.

The pending claims are novel. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections based on WO '167.

Applicants submit that the pending claims 26-36 and 38-57 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean A. Lown  
Registration No. 48,428  
Attorney for Applicants

JAL:jlh/53788US011 Amend to OA 11-06-02  
Office of Intellectual Property Counsel  
3M Innovative Properties Company  
P.O. Box 33427  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427  
(651) 733-3169  
Facsimile: (651) 736-3833

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW AMENDMENTS MADE:

In the Claims:

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DEC -5 2002  
TC 1700 MAIL ROOM

41. (Twice Amended) An article comprising:

- a) a substrate; and
- c) a clear protective polyurethane layer on a first surface of the substrate, wherein the polyurethane contains primary aliphatic isocyanate crosslinking, and wherein about 25% or more of the total crosslink density is contributed by a polyisocyanate components, said polyurethane exhibiting at least one property selected from the group consisting of a flexural modulus of  $1.0 \times 10^8$  pascals or less, a storage modulus of  $1.0 \times 10^8$  pascals or less, a Shore A hardness of less than 94, a Hoffman scratch-hardness test result of 2 or less, and a color shift, in accordance with heat aging test ASTM D2244-79, within 1 delta E.

47. (Amended) An article comprising;

- a) a substrate; and
- b) a flexible clear polyurethane applied as a layer on a surface of said substrate, said flexible polyurethane comprising a reaction product of,
  - i) a first component included one or more polyols having an equivalent weight in the range from about 28 to about 3000, optionally one or more diols having an equivalent weight in the range from about 30 to about 4000, and a catalyst; and
  - ii) a second component comprising a primary aliphatic isocyanate crosslinker having at least 50 weight percent polyisocyanate,

wherein the first and second components together are solvent free.

Add new claims 53-57.